

U.S. Appl. No. 09/920,883
Reply to Office Action dated December 29, 2005

PATENT
450100-03386

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present remarks are being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

Claims 1-14 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 10 and 11 are independent.

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,698,020 to Zigmond, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Zigmond") in view of U.S. Pub. No.: 2002/0010927 to Kim (hereinafter, merely "Kim").

Applicants note that Kim was filed on January 12, 2001, and claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application 60/176,121 filed on January 14, 2000.

The present application has a priority date of August 3, 2000. Thus, Applicants are entitled to an effective filing date of August 3, 2000, which is prior to Kim's filing date of January 12, 2001.

Upon review of U.S. Provisional Application 60/176,121, Applicants submit that there is no disclosure that would support the rejection. Indeed, the portion of Kim relied upon by the Office Action, paragraph [0076], is not part of U.S. Provisional Application 60/176,121. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the rejection in view of Kim be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

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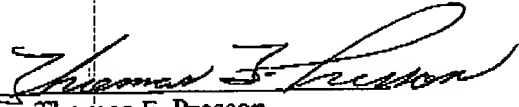
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In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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